

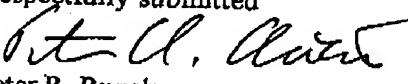
Faced with the requirement to elect a single species as defined by the Examiner, applicant has elected that which employs the clutch as specifically revealed in Figs. 8 to 18. However, the operation of that clutch and, more importantly, the invention as claimed in the generic and specific claims would not be complete or possibly even understood without considering the aspects of the invention as claimed that are illustrated in some of the drawings grouped by the Examiner with the non-elected species. For this reason, and for this reason alone, Figs. 3 to 6 have been listed among those related to the elected species.

It is to be emphasized that, even though the above election was made as required, it is still believed that (especially because no specific claims are currently of record – or contemplated to be presented – that would be directed to the Alternative I of the clutch), the election requirement is not aimed at the invention per se which generically resides, as explained above, in the construction of the locking portion of the lock, not in any particular way of transmitting the torque between the axial extension 23 and the entraining member 31, or any particular construction of either one of them or of the immediately associated components, such as the output member 3.

In this context, it is also to be mentioned that components 3 and 31 as they appear in the various Figures are functional equivalents of one another, even though they may have slightly different structures because they cooperate in one instance (Alternative I) with a disk spring (reference numeral 4 in Figs. 1, 2 and 7) and in the other (Alternative II) with a helical spring (reference numeral 4 in Figs. 8, 9 and 18). If the Examiner feels that this may cause misunderstanding or confusion, she is invited to indicate so, and the drawings (with corresponding parts of the detailed description) will be amended by assigning different reference numerals to such functional equivalents.

It is believed that this response is complete and in conformity with the requirements. However, should the Examiner be of a different opinion, she is requested to inform the undersigned attorney accordingly and give him an opportunity to take care of any possible discrepancies.

Respectfully submitted



Peter R. Ruzek

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 27,509